

Event Vetting

Government employees, particularly high-level officials like United States Attorneys, are subject to ethical restrictions governing the types of events they may attend. Some restrictions relate to benefits, including luncheons, dinners, awards, and tokens of appreciation they may accept. Other restrictions relate, among other things, to participation in events that are sponsored by persons who do business with or lobby the Government; that have a fundraising component; where it may appear that official attendance is being used to promote the event or the sponsor; or where elected officials may be in attendance. To assist us in vetting compliance with government ethical restrictions, we would appreciate it if you could provide the following information. If you do not have specific information for each response, please provide such general or descriptive information as you currently have. Please do not hesitate to call the Office's Government Ethics Advisor, (b)(6), (b)(7)c at (b)(6), (b)(7)c or e-mail him at (b)(6), (b)(7)c to discuss this.

1. Name, date and time, and location of event.

The Association of Business Trial Lawyers 42nd Annual Seminar.
"Countdown: The Digital World Confronts an Analog Profession"
Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, Ojai California
October 1-4, 2015
Speaking evening; October 3, 2015

2. Format of event (e.g., cocktails; presentations; speeches; and/or meal).

The event itself is a seminar consisting of presentations, MCLE credit as well as cocktail receptions, dinners and free time for the attendees

3. Estimated cost per attendee of event.

Ticket prices are range between \$995 and \$1095 for attorneys (depending on years in practice), \$575 for judges and \$575 for guests.

4. Are any attendees being charged to attend the event?

- a. If so, who (in general) is being offered free attendance, and who is expected to pay?

Ticket prices are range between \$995 and \$1095 for attorneys (depending on years in practice), \$575 for judges and \$575 for guests. Free attendance is offered to judicial panelists and the keynote speaker.

5. Name of entity extending the invitation and link to web site (if any).

Association of Business Trial Lawyers (abtl@abtl.org)

- a. Does the entity extending the invitation engage in lobbying? *No.*
6. Sponsor of event if different from above.
 - a. Does the sponsor of the event engage in lobbying?
7. Names of additional entities that will be recognized for sponsorship or support of the event.

Vendor sponsors participate in our event. They include:

- ADR Services, Inc.
- Aptus Court Reporting
- Bentham IMF
- Berkeley Research Group
- Cornerstone Research
- Data Triage Technologies
- GlassRatner
- Hemming Morse
- JAMS
- Judicate West
- KCC
- Legistics, Inc.
- Thomson Reuters
- Veritext Legal Solutions

8. How many persons are expected to attend?
350-400
9. Demographics of expected attendees (*e.g.*, lawyers; law enforcement; business leaders; students; etc.)

California lawyers, state and federal judiciary, and their guests make up the majority of attendees.

10. Are any elected officials expected to attend and, if so, what is their expected role?

Only judiciary.

11. Is there a fundraising component to the event? (*e.g.*, program advertisements; dinner ticket price; silent auction)? If so, please describe.

No. The goal of the Annual Seminar is to cover costs and not to make a profit. Sponsorships are designed to underwrite a portion of the expenses to keep the seminar costs down for individual attendees and their guests.

12. Expected role of U.S. Attorney (*e.g.*, simple attendance; remarks; speech)

He is requested to be our keynote speaker and to give approximately 20-30 minutes of remarks at the dinner.

13. If the U.S. Attorney is being honored: N/A

- a. What are the criteria your organization applies to determine who should be honored for this specific award?
- b. What is the internal process by which your organization selects potential honorees?
- c. For what specific public service or achievement do you wish to honor the U.S. Attorney?
- d. Did any of the accomplishments of the U.S. Attorney which you wish to honor directly affect the organization or its members? (Describe.)
- e. Do any of the board members or host committee or senior staff have any matters pending before or involving the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York?
- f. Please provide a description and the value of any award item (if the award item is a plaque, certificate or trophy of little intrinsic value, you may so indicate).
- g. Who else is expected to be honored at the event?

14. If the U.S. Attorney is making a presentation, who else is expected to be making a presentation/be on a panel?

- a. Will the U.S. Attorney be presented with a token or memento in appreciation for his presentation?
 - i. ☒ Nothing
 - ii. ☐ Plaque or other memento of little intrinsic value
 - iii. ☐ Other. Please describe, including its value.

15. Describe any special seating arrangements for U.S. Attorney, *e.g.*, dais, general seating (depending on the nature of the event, the U.S. Attorney may or may not be able to accept “dais” seating.)

There is no special seating planned at this time.

16. Promotion of the event: please provide a copy of or link to the invitation/promotional material for the event (or if not available, for the prior year’s event).

<http://abtl.org/annualseminar.htm>